

Wolves

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Justin Primus, a wildlife biologist at the ODFW's Baker City office, said he examined three wounded calves on a Bureau of Land Management grazing allotment on Monday. The site was about half a mile from where the carcass of the dead calf was found on May 5.

Primus said on Tuesday, May 10, that the official ODFW report on the latest incident probably won't be released until Wednesday, May 11, after press time for the May 12 issue of the Baker City Herald.

Ash, who also saw the injured calves, said on Tuesday, May 10, that two calves likely will survive but a third, which had a larger wound, probably would be euthanized.

He said that calf had a hole in its hindquarters about the size of a fist.

Ash said the tooth scrapes he saw on the injured calves were similar to marks on other cattle that were confirmed by ODFW as having been attacked by wolves.

Ash said he thinks ODFW should allow biologists who examine injured or dead live-

stock to determine officially on site whether or not wolves were responsible. Instead, Primus and other biologists forward their reports, and preliminary findings, to ODFW's state wolf coordinator, Roblyn Brown, who works at the agency's La Grande office. Official findings typically are released, and published on ODFW's website, within a few days.

Ash said the current situation in Baker County — and in particular in the area north of Richland — reminds him of what happened in other parts of the county in the past.

During the spring of 2018, for instance, wolves from the Pine Creek pack (which no longer exists) attacked cattle repeatedly in the low hills country southeast of Halfway, killing four and injuring at least seven.

"We see this typically in the spring when ranchers start turning out on private pastures and BLM allotments," Ash said. "We need ODFW to manage the wolves by the (state wolf management) plan. If they start this chronic targeting of cattle they need to work with the ranchers and deal with this problem."

More recently, during the summer and early fall of



Baker County Sheriff's Office/Contributed Photo

A state biologist examined a calf near Richland on Monday, May 9, that might have been attacked by wolves.

2021, wolves from the Lookout Mountain pack, north of Durkee Valley, killed at least nine head of cattle and injured three others.

In response, ODFW killed eight of the 11 wolves from the pack, including its breeding male.

"I really don't want to see a

similar situation in Richland or Keating," Ash said. "I am worried about it."

Primus said he hasn't seen any evidence that anything, besides the cattle themselves, is attracting wolves to the area north of Richland, such as a pit where ranchers are actively leaving carcasses.

He said wolves from the Cornucopia pack, which ODFW believes consists of five wolves, has been staying in that area for the past few months.

With their natural prey base of deer and elk beginning to move into higher elevations as the snow recedes, cattle, and calves in particular, become the "easiest thing on the landscape to catch," Primus said.

That could remain the case until deer start having fawns, and elk bear calves, which will start in a couple weeks, he said.

In the meantime, Ash hopes ODFW will either consider killing some wolves or giving a rancher a permit to kill wolves. That happened earlier this month in Wallowa County, where a rancher shot and killed one wolf from the Chesnimnus pack. Wolves from that pack attacked cattle at least four times the last week of April, according to ODFW.

Under Oregon's wolf plan, ODFW can give kill permits to a rancher if wolves from a specific pack were implicated in at least two attacks within a nine-month period. The permit in Wallowa County allows the rancher to kill up to two wolves before the permit expires May 24.

Which wolves?

Both Ash and Primus said at least a couple ranchers in the Richland area have reported recently seeing three gray-colored wolves that don't have tracking collars.

Primus said ODFW has not documented gray, uncollared wolves as part of the Cornucopia pack.

He said the alpha female of the pack is collared, and data from the collar show no evidence that she went to a den this spring to have pups.

When a female has a litter of pups it's usually easy to confirm, even without seeing the pups, because the mother spends long periods of time in one location, which is the den, Primus said.

ODFW biologists had not expected the Cornucopia pack to produce pups this year since the pack does not have a documented breeding male.

Ranchers frustrated by wolf attacks, ODFW response

BY BILL BRADSHAW

Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA COUNTY — Wolf kills of livestock are becoming more frustrating to Wallowa County ranchers and livestock officials when they see how those depredations are handled by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Crow Creek rancher Tom Birkmaier, who is the president of the Wallowa County Stockgrowers Association, runs about 500 cows, most of which have calves. He lost a half dozen animals to wolves of the Chesnimnus Pack in late April and early May.

Birkmaier said he asked ODFW to "remove" the pack — meaning to kill them.

In response, ODFW issued a kill permit April 29. The permit, good through May 24, allows Birkmaier or an agent on his behalf to kill two wolves in Dorrance Pasture or Trap Canyon Pasture, where the depredations on cattle occurred, he said.

One of Birkmaier's agents killed a yearling male on Tuesday, May 3, said John Williams of Enterprise, co-chairman of the wolf committee for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Birkmaier declined to identify who took the wolf in an interview on May 9.

"I don't want him to get threatened" by wolf proponents, Birkmaier said.

He said that at the time of the killing, the wolf was not actively attacking cattle, but was in Dorrance Pasture along Crow Creek. A targeted wolf does not legally have to be in the act of attacking livestock, it just has to be in an area where depredations have occurred, he said.

Effective management?

Todd Nash, president of the OCA, a Wallowa County Commissioner and a local rancher, said that the state conservation and wolf-management plan has two main parts.

"They've done one but not the other," he said. "They've been highly critical of poaching, and I'm not defending that, but they need to step up to the plate when it's appropriate for them to take lethal action, and they have not done so."

He emphasized that he doesn't mean elimination of wolves as a species.

"We're not talking about total eradication of wolves," he said. "When wolves get to be chronic depredators of livestock, then you have to be effective managers."

But the kill permit issued to Birkmaier allows what is already legal in Oregon's eastside cattle country, where wolves were removed from the state's endangered species list in 2015. State law allows a rancher to eliminate wolves after two confirmed kills of cattle.

"We already have permitless take in that anybody on this side of the state where wolves are chasing, biting, killing their livestock, they have the authority to go ahead and kill the wolves," he said. "So the permit they gave was not much different than what we already have available to us."

Nash said the ODFW issuance of a kill permit wasn't effective wolf management.

"Their response was to give two kill permits for a given area. In that area, it's restrictive," Nash said. "I'm going to use the example of if (serial killer) Ted Bundy moved out of one apartment and into another, you'd just say, 'Oh, he's moved now. You can't arrest him.' ... Instead of the whole pack, they've restricted the area down."

Nash showed photographs of sheep that were killed April 29 in the Elk Mountain area of Wallowa County. Three lambs and two ewes were killed and

the report blamed the depredation on coyotes, officially calling the responsibility "other."

He showed photos of fresh wolf tracks nearby and a dog track to compare for size. He also decried what the ODFW said was a coyote attack.

"Those (wolf) tracks were right next to where the sheep were killed," he said. "And they're calling it a coyote? But there wasn't a fresh coyote track out there. There were some old ones."

Williams also was on the scene of the attack on the sheep. He agreed it was a wolf attack and not coyotes.

Nash said he went right to the top of the agency.

"They're absolutely wrong on this one," he said. "I talked to the director and asked for a review, that they take a keen look at this because they're just wrong."

Like Birkmaier about his agent who shot a wolf, the

owner of the sheep wanted to remain anonymous. Both hope to keep a good relationship with the ODFW.

Birkmaier said the local ODFW agents have offered to help tend his cattle.

Agency report

The most recent livestock kills in Wallowa County reported on ODFW's wolf depredation report were on April 30. Three more attacks were listed in Baker County on May 5.

Birkmaier said he's lost a couple more calves this month and he's spending time treating a calf that he's not sure will survive.

"I'm spending an hour a day doctoring the other one," he said. "I can't get ahead of the infection."

He said he understands it takes a while for the agency

to complete investigations and list the depredations, but wolves don't wait around for agency paperwork.

"Generally, they take great deal of time when time is of the essence," Williams said.

Dennehy said determinations of reported wolf kills are generally reported within 48 hours of a producer's report. When the agency's determination is considered unsatisfactory to the producer, a review process is available.

"If requested by the owner of the livestock, we have a process to review disputed determinations and that is happening now," Dennehy said about the April 29 sheep kill.

As of May 9, the report still said "bite wounds were consistent with coyote attacks on sheep" and listed the determination as "other."

Charles 'Charlie' Dougherty

February 18, 1938 - April 27, 2022

Charles Duane "Charlie" Dougherty passed away peacefully and unexpectedly at St. Charles Hospital in Bend on April 27, 2022, at the age of 84. His wife, Virginia, and his three sons, Mike, Rob and Kit, were by his side.

Charles was the oldest of four children born to Charles "Chuck" and Doris Dougherty. He was born on February 18, 1938, in Loveland, Colorado. His family moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon, when he was very young. He attended Klamath Union High School where he graduated in 1956, and where he met the love of his life, Virginia Walkley. The two were married on December 28, 1958.

Charles developed a passion for the outdoors as a young man, and dreamed of a career in Fish and Game with the Oregon State Police. As soon as he turned 21 years old that dream became a reality. He and Virginia moved to Ontario, Oregon, where their three sons were born. His career with the Oregon State Police led him next to Pendleton, Oregon, then to Baker City, Oregon, and eventually to State Police headquarters in Salem, Oregon. His innate ability to relate to others created many lifelong friendships with other law enforcement officers and members of the communities in which he served.

In 1979, always looking for a challenge, Charles became a partner in Century 21 Baker City Realty and in 1985 he purchased Southside Market & Deli in Madras, Oregon. He and Virginia moved to Culver, Oregon. For the next 10 years, while their home was and still is in Culver, they operated the market and Virginia taught school in Madras. After selling the market, Charles returned to real estate, eventually owning RE/MAX Land & Homes Real Estate in Redmond, Oregon. He retired from Real Estate in February 2021.

Charles enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping, and together with family and friends created years of memories in the outdoor excursions that live on today in stories told and retold, many of them not suitable to publish, but hilarious. He loved running and ran many marathons in his younger years. He also loved to read and would discuss authors and stories and exchange books with friends and family. He attended St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Madras, Oregon.

Charles lives on through his loving family - his wife of over 63 years, Virginia, of Culver, Oregon; his three sons: Michael of Culver, Oregon, Robert (wife Joy), of Tualatin, Oregon, and Christopher "Kit" (wife Kelly) of Baker City, Oregon. He loved and was so proud of his 8 grandchildren: Jessica (husband Chris), Megan, Chelsie, Delaney, Kailey, Jace, Emily (fiancée Majed), and Rebecca "Becca"; and his great-grandchildren: Brennan, Jasmine, and Rylee; his sister Sharron (husband Cletis) and many special nieces and nephews.

A Mass will be held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Madras, Oregon, at 10 a.m. on May 21, 2022, with the Rosary at 9:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, Charles's family would like donations to be made to Knights of Columbus Ukraine Relief Fund (website address: kofc.org/Ukraine).

Bel-Air Funeral Home in Madras, Oregon is entrusted with arrangements.

Celebration of Life
Linda Koplein
 Jan. 20, 1949 - Sept. 14, 2021
May 21st, 2022 • 1 PM - 4 PM
Baker City Elk's Lodge
 Please bring memories, smiles and laughter.
 Luncheon will follow

Elizabeth Ann 'Beth' Atkins

July 25, 1951 - April 28, 2022

Elizabeth Ann "Beth" Atkins passed away on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at St. Alphonsus Hospital, Boise, Idaho. She was 70 years young.

Beth was born on a beautiful summer day, July 25, 1951, in Albany, Oregon, to H. Berten Atkins and Alta Leondine Aspinwall Atkins. She grew up in Albany attending Central Grade School and Albany Union High School. She went on to attend Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon.

From there she followed in her father's footsteps, starting work at the Ladd and Bush branch, U.S. Bank, Salem, Oregon, then moving to Oregon City branch of U.S. Bank and on to Molalla as branch manager.

Beth had a wonderful childhood. All weekends were spent with parents, sister, grandparents and sometimes even cousins. Big family dinners, picnics, and fishing trips. Vacations were always at the Oregon Coast which Beth truly loved. She especially loved going crabbing with brother-in-law Darrel and niece Kim.

Elizabeth "Beth" Atkins married Gorden Atkins on March 25, 1977, in Reno, Nevada. Their first home was in Donald, Oregon, and then on to Oregon City, where they lived until retiring to Unity, Oregon, in 2000. There she met many wonderful people who became true friends, and the family is very grateful for each and every one of them.

Beth was a very devoted Christian and volunteered many hours over the years to her church, Burnt River Community Church in Unity, Oregon.

She is survived by her sister, Leberta Jones (Darrell), niece, Kimberly Anderson (Phil), great-niece, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Anderson (Beth's namesake), and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by husband, Gorden Atkins, her father, H. Berten Atkins, her mother, Leondine Aspinwall, her grandparents, Hugh and Mary Aspinwall, and Stephen and Mae Atkins, and her nephew, Eric S. Jones.

The service will be held at Unity Community Hall on Friday, May 13th at 3 p.m. Arrangements are under the Nampa Funeral Home, Yraguen Chapel where an online guest book is available at www.nampafuneralhome.com.

Family and friends of Ron Jenkins

are invited to a Celebration of Life at the Senior Center

1504 Albany, La Grande, OR

May 21st 2022 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Come help us celebrate and remember.

Refreshments will be available and lots of

visiting is encouraged.

Paula Jenkins, Lisa and Lynn



The Nurses and Techs at Saint Alphonsus Baker City would like to say THANK YOU and show our support to the Baker City Fire Department's First Responders for the work they do 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in our community. Thank you from the Oregon Nurses Association of Saint Alphonsus Baker City.

Remember, these brave men and women not only respond to fires and emergency medical calls they also provide many other invaluable services to Baker City and surrounding areas including:

- "Stop the Bleed" campaign
- FREE Blood Pressure checks at the Community Center
- EMT Preceptors
- School Education
- Fire Inspections
- Community Basic Life Support (CPR) and First Responder Courses
- Rural Fire Department Training

Thank you for ALL you do to keep us Safe

ONA Oregon Nurses Association
 Voice of Oregon Nurses Since 1904